

Workplace Alaska

Class Specification

Chemist V

Created:
06/06/1997 by Rachel Wilson
Finalized on:

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Approved by:

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Class Status: Active

Category:
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Class Title: Chemist V
Use MJR Form: Standard

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ESTABLISHED

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Last Update: **EEO4:** B **SOC:** 19-2031 **Census:** 02

Last Update Comments:

Definition:

The Chemist class series includes positions performing work that requires full professional education and training in the field of chemistry. Work is analytical in nature, involving investigation and interpretation of composition, molecular structure and properties of substances, transformations which they undergo, and the effects of such substances and transformations. Positions conduct a variety of analyses and present authoritative findings and conclusions. Work is primarily performed in laboratories.

Chemists develop, standardize or carry out methods and procedures for the analysis of compounds or substances, most commonly for the purposes of (1) detection, identification and quantification, (2) compliance with law, accepted standards or other requirements, (3) criminal investigation or law enforcement.

As chemistry is a broad field encompassing numerous branches and specialties, so this class is designed to be broad. All professional chemists have in common training and experience equivalent to the college training required for a bachelor's degree in chemistry. They are required to have knowledge of the broad field of chemistry and a working knowledge of basic principles of mathematics and physics, and the ability to relate and apply these principles to their work. The Chemist series covers all positions involving, for example, analytical chemistry, organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, geochemistry, criminalistics or forensic chemistry, or other specializations depending upon the particular functions and objectives of agencies where the positions are located - - - where these jobs require a professional chemist background.

While the job classes are broadly prescribed, individual positions frequently require specialization (examples above). Beyond the entry level, positions typically require professional training and/or experience in specific area(s) of chemistry, and employee selection will be made on this basis.

Any Chemist position may be required to lead the work of laboratory assistants (nonprofessional, and/or professional assistants at higher levels) or work performed by field personnel, e.g., sample collecting and shipment, routine on-site testing procedures or the like. Lead responsibilities may be assigned on an intermittent or permanent basis, and are limited to a small number of assistants at any time, unless otherwise specified in the following descriptions.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

Chemist V is the fully supervisory level class. In addition to the technical responsibilities of the next lower level, positions in this class have responsibility for planning, organizing and administering the activities of a major state laboratory facility; for directing the work of a staff of professional and supportive laboratory personnel; and for instructing and directing related work of field personnel. Supervisory and administrative activities are the predominant functions of positions at this level rather than actual performance of chemical analyses. Chemist V have substantial supervisory responsibility for the exercise of independent judgment in appointing, promoting, transferring, suspending, dismissing and adjudicating grievances of subordinates.

Examples of Duties:

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Superior knowledge, through intensive experience and study of the composition, technology and properties of substances involved and practices of the industries concerned (for example, areas of air or water quality, food, drugs, toxicological, metallurgical or criminalistic analyses) in order to (1) evaluate the critical elements in any new set of circumstances, (2) judge the most effective analytical or testing approaches, and (3) determine the course of action in the laboratory.

Ability to apply this knowledge to agency programs in order to develop plans, methods, procedures and tests to fulfill program objectives.

Ability to administer laboratory operations and supervise the work of others.

Minimum Qualifications:

Graduation from college with a major in chemistry.

AND

Six years of increasingly professional laboratory experience as a chemist, biochemist, geochemist, criminalist, or closely related position with the State of Alaska or the equivalent elsewhere. Experience must have included independent responsibility for making quantitative and qualitative analyses with intensive specialization in a class of chemical compounds or products.

Substitution: Graduate study in any of the chemistry related areas indicated in this section may substitute for the required experience (on a year-for-year basis) up to a maximum of two years.

Required Job Qualifications:

(The special note is to be used to explain any additional information an applicant might need in order to understand or answer questions about the minimum qualifications.)

Special Note:

Supervisory, administrative or managerial experience in a laboratory is preferred.

Minimum Qualification Questions:

Do you have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college with a major in chemistry?

AND

Do you have six years of increasingly responsible professional laboratory experience as a chemist, biochemist, geochemist, criminalist, or closely related position with the State of Alaska or the equivalent elsewhere? (Experience must have included independent responsibility for making quantitative and qualitative analysis with intensive specialization in a class of chemical compounds or products.)

Or Substitution:

Do you have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college with a major in chemistry?

AND

Do you have a combination of two years of graduate study from an accredited college (2 semester or 3 quarter hours equal one month of experience) in chemistry, and/or increasingly responsible professional laboratory experience as a chemist, biochemist, geochemist, criminalist, or closely related position with the State of Alaska or the equivalent elsewhere? (Experience must have included independent responsibility for making quantitative and qualitative analysis with intensive specialization in a class of chemical compounds or products.)

AND

Do you have four years of increasingly responsible professional laboratory experience as a chemist, biochemist, geochemist, criminalist, or closely related position with the State of Alaska or the equivalent elsewhere? (Experience must have included independent responsibility for making quantitative and qualitative analysis with intensive specialization in a class of chemical compounds or products.)